

Maine Newborn Hearing Program  
Advisory Board

**Senator Inn & Conference Center, Augusta Maine**

**Date: February 11, 2009**

**12:00 to 4:00**

**Members Present:** Eileen Peterson, Louise Packness, Karen Hopkins, Romy Spitz, Kristen Shorey, Annette Bowman, Karen Harrison, Cindy Brown, Carrie Chojnowski, Harriet Gray

**Members Absent:** Brenda Medlin, Deb Stroud, Karen Perry, Lisa Sockabasin

**Guests:** Jon Connick, Jennifer Libby

**Moderator:** Betsy Glencross

**Scribe:** Ana Scovil

**I. Approval of minutes from: December 5, 2008, accepted.**

**II. Program Updates: Betsy Glencross**

- MNHP Advisory Board Orientation took place prior to Advisory Board meeting if you are interested in receiving an Orientation Program packet please contact Betsy or Ana.
- Included in the meeting packet was an updated Protocols guide for birthing facilities. The birth facility screening and referral process was changed due to legislation enacted in 2008 and to meet some of the 2007 JCIH recommendations. Screening facilities are now mandated to set up a referral appointment and notify the MNHP and Primary Care Provider. In addition, both ears must be tested each time a screening is performed and the most recent screening result is what is used for determining hearing status.
  - Betsy created a hearing screening referral form that must be faxed to both the MNHP and the baby's PCP. With this referral form we are receiving info about referrals much quicker; we have even received referral information and follow-up reports from audiologists prior to receiving birth certificates. A sample of this form was included in the meeting materials
  - Our parent consultant, Vivian Mikhail, is able to get this information to call parents and see if they have any questions and inform them how important it is for appointment to be kept, in a timely manner.
- MNHP 1-3-6 Month Diagnostic Flow Chart has been updated to address the referral process from the birth facility and to make it a bit more user friendly.
- The 2008 Maine Newborn Hearing Annual Report to the Legislature has been submitted on behalf of the Board. You may contact Betsy with any questions or concerns. Per law the Annual Report is to be prepared by the Advisory Board and Betsy stated that next year, the Board would be involved with the report prior to its submission to the Legislature.

**III. Audiology Consultant Overview/Update: Betsy Glencross**

- ChildLINK database has modified the reporting data. The System is being updated daily as we are now getting more audiologist reports. Betsy should now be able to report to CDS in a timelier manner.

- 2003 Maine Pediatric Audiology Guidelines will be updated by two committees 1) Pediatric amplifications & fitting protocols 2) diagnostic protocols applications. Jim Dean, Audiology consultant for MNHP is organizing the committees and hopes to get guideline updates by our next meeting in May.

#### **IV. Parent Consultant Update: Betsy Glencross**

The parent consultant position is contracted through the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing (MECDHH). Vivian Mikhail will be meeting quarterly with Betsy, Karen H. and Lynn Schardel to go over the expectations and goals of the position, making things more formalized. Reports will be provided to the Board for review.

#### **V. Action Items from Previous Meeting**

- Subcommittee Reports:
  - Specialty Provider: Romy Spitz  
Database has been created and pending resolution with Toni Wall.
  - Membership: Kristen Shorey  
There are two vacant seats. Jon Connick will soon fill the seat of Culturally Deaf person. The seat of a Parent of Culturally Deaf Child continues to be vacant.
  - Presentation: Louise Packness  
May 7<sup>th</sup> Presentation to the Maine Speech and Language Hearing Association spring conference outline has been completed. The focus for the presentation is to promote interest for more providers to work with babies (children under 3). Louise will check if the Board can be invited to the conference.
- Cultural Competency: Romy Spitz
  - Lisa Sockabasin reported to Romy that DHHS needs to be working on translations of MNHP education material.
  - Romy and Betsy will do a MNHP curriculum on the next Mental and Medical Interpreter training for spoken and sign language.
- Training Module for Birth Facilities: Betsy
  - Betsy is working on having the training module setup for the Perinatal Nurse Managers meeting in June. The module will include NATUS user manuals, ChildLINK, user informative training DVD, also Parents educational on importance of hearing screening in addition to other educational material.
  - Board members may view videos at [www.infanthearing.org/index.html](http://www.infanthearing.org/index.html)
- Family Information Notebook: Betsy  
A Parent's Guide for Infants & Children with Hearing Loss is in process of being updated. Thank you to Karen Hopkins, Carrie Chojnowski, Toni Wall, and Ana Scovil for going through the notebook and making updates and comments.
- 2009 EHDI Conference: Betsy Glencross  
Betsy Glencross, Jim Dean, Toni Wall, Vivian Mikhail will attend the March conference on behalf of the MNHP. Karen Hopkins will also be attending and is presenting at a session.

## **VI. New Agenda Items:**

- Early Intervention Update:  
Betsy reported that on Jan 16<sup>th</sup>, a meeting was held with state Child Development Services (CDS), Early Childhood and Family Services (ECFS), and MNHP staff. Janet Farrell, our National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM) liaison, was a guest speaker. MNHP was able to provide some background information to the group on how the “1-3-6” process and especially the referral to CDS works in Maine. Janet provided the group with related information on a National level as well as how these steps work in Massachusetts. Betsy stated that this was a successful meeting and that the group has agreed to meet on a quarterly basis. In addition, the MNHP has since received the first IFSP data from CDS sites in many years!
- Overview of MNHP Data. The most current MNHP data was provided in the meeting packet. Betsy briefly reviewed the data with the Board.
- National Initiative for Children’s Healthcare Quality (NICHQ). MNHP has been invited to participate with this program for Improving the System of Care for Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs with a specific emphasis on Newborn Hearing Screening Programs. However, we need authorization from MeCDC & DHHS management to participate as it requires out of state travel for several members of the team.

## **VII. Networking/ Sharing Info**

- Rhode Island Hearing Assessment Program(RIHAP) is on Mon March 23, 2009, from 7:45 to 4:30 p.m. Conference information can be found online at [www.womenandinfants.org](http://www.womenandinfants.org)
- Maine Association for Infant Mental Health 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual conference will be Friday May 15, 2009 from 8:15 am to 4:00 p.m. at Ramada Conference Center, Lewiston Maine. For more information or to be on the mailing list contact Debbie Nugent at [DebraNJ@aol.com](mailto:DebraNJ@aol.com)
- Linda Crow speech and language pathologist from the CDS, Bangor office is participating in deaf/blind train the trainer project.
- hear ME now! SAVE THE DATE 7th Annual “Break the Sound Barrier” Ski Race Fundraiser Sunday, March 1st, 2009 check online at [www.hear-me-now.org](http://www.hear-me-now.org) for more information.
- hear ME now! Open house March 7<sup>th</sup> is located at: 19 Yarmouth Drive Yarmouth Hall, Suite 201 Pineland Farms, New Gloucester, Maine 04260 Phone:(207) 688-4544
- Request to create Deaf community liaison to assist families for information on deafness.

## **VIII. Wrap up/ Plan for Next Meeting**

- Janet Farrell will be guest speaker for our MNHP Advisory Board meeting May 1st. Invitations to Jim Dean and Vivian Mikhail will be sent.